

Jury Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

October 14, 2005
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the Committee were present: Christopher Burnham, Sheila Carlisle, Louis Rosenberg, William Sleva, and William Hughes, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman and Tom Carusillo provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Welcome and approval of minutes. Judge Hughes welcomed the new Committee members. The Committee approved the minutes from July 29, 2005.
4. Minimum orientation standards. Judge Hughes reported to the Committee that he presented the recommended revision to the minimum orientation standards to the Board of Directors in September. The Board approved the recommendations and the revised standards were distributed at the September Judicial Conference. He also reported there was a question at the Board meeting regarding whether there were plans to amend the jury orientation video. Judge Hughes responded that the only error in the video was minor and that the Committee felt that the change in orientation standards would resolve the error. The Committee agreed with this position.
5. Legislation. Judge Hughes reported that the web postings in response to Rep. Mays concerns have been posted and an email has been sent to the judges informing them of the postings. He also reported that the Chief Justice will be responding directly to Rep. Mays on this issue.

Judge Hughes then discussed with the Committee the history of past legislative efforts to amend statutes relating to juries and that judges have testified on such matters individually. Judge Hughes said that Sen. Gard is planning to introduce her bill again this session and he thinks Rep. Mays will also do so. He asked the Committee whether they would be interested in seeking Board approval to actively represent the judiciary to seek legislation to eliminate exemptions and to work to bring consistency between the Jury Rules and the three sets of jury statutes. The Committee members present supported this action. Judge Hughes requested Michelle to email the Committee regarding this activity for a vote.
6. Orientation transcript. Michelle reported that the orientation transcript was made available and a request was received to determine if the Committee had plans to post the transcript on the web page for jurors. The Committee discussed the issue and that this would be another way to get information out to the citizens. The Committee determined that the transcript should be placed on the web site for citizens regarding jury service.
7. Review of frequently asked questions. Michelle distributed the FAQs posted on the Jury Committee web site with recommended changes to conform with recent rule changes. The Committee reviewed these changes and approved them for posting. The Committee also requested that these FAQs and the Jury Committee web page be linked to the Judiciary's web page for judges.

8. Review of press release. Michelle reported to the Committee that since the last meeting several news reports have been released regarding potential telephone scam using jury duty as a means to gain personal information. She reported that she has worked with David Remondini on this and they wanted the Committee to have an opportunity to review the release and provide any comments. The Committee approved the release and asked that it also be sent directly to the judges.
9. Review of project list. The Committee reviewed the project list and discussed several of the items listed. The Committee decided to pursue the following items: 1) legislation to remove exemptions and eliminate conflicting jury statutes, 2) provide a resource center for courts looking for jury software, 3) develop a benchbook for courts on jury management (jury rules, sample forms, local jury plans, software resources, dialogues, staff interaction with jurors, etc.), 4) address juror stress/debriefing issues, 5) research whether costs assessed in civil cases for last minute settlements is feasible, 6) ADA issues for jury service (including guidelines on the issues, resources regarding interpreters, oaths, etc.). The Committee felt that unanimous verdicts should be removed from the project list.
10. Jury Pool. Michelle reported to the Committee that 81 counties had requested the master list. She reported that there have been some requests for random lists since some counties no longer have jury management systems with the voter registration software changes. Also, there has been an issue raised involving the address validation process. She noted that although this is the best available tool, it is not perfect in assigning the proper county to the data. She also reported that a survey would be sent to counties using the list for feedback on the project in the beginning of 2006.

Judge Hughes also raised the issue regarding the remaining grant money. The Committee discussed a couple of options, including universal software. The Committee members felt there were too many issues to produce universal software, but suggested that the remaining funds be used to help counties purchase their own software with matching grants.
11. Other business. Judge Hughes reported that with the amendment to Rule 4, effective January 1, 2006, Hamilton and Allen Counties are working on electronic submission of juror information. He also reported on the presentation on jury issues at the Diversity Summit and asked that copies of the ABA principles discussed at the Summit be made available to this Committee. Finally, Judge Hughes reported that he received a call from a news reporter from Louisville, Kentucky concerning the lack of statistics available on race of jurors.
12. Meeting dates for 2006. The Committee scheduled the following meeting dates for 2006:
 - Friday, January 20, 2006
 - Friday, February 17, 2006 (if necessary)
 - Friday, April 7, 2006
 - Friday, July 14, 2006
 - Friday, October 13, 2006All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. (Indianapolis time) at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman